Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery; diverting of West flowing rivers of Kerala to east; interlinking west flowing river between Bombay and Tapi; and interlinking of Southern tributaries of Yamuna.

National Water Development Agency, set up by Government of India is carrying out studies on the peninsular componet.

Raising of pecuniary limits of District Courts

675. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many civil cases are pending in the original jurisdiction of several High Courts in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to clear such pending cases;

(c) whether raising of pecuniary limits of Civil cases tried by the district Courts is being considered by Government to reduce the pendency in the High Courts;

(d) if reply to part (c) is in affirmative, what are the details thereof: and

(e) if reply to part (c) is in negative what are the reasons for not increasing the pecuniary limits of district Courts for trial of civil cases in the light of pendency in the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The number of civil cases pending in the original jurisdiction of the High Courts in the country have been indicated in Statement-I, annexed herewith. (*See* below)

(b) Steps taken to reduce pendency of cases have been indicated in Statement II, annexed herewith. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The administration of justice in the States is primarily the concern of the State Governments. The pecuniary jurisdiction of the District Courts in the States is governed by various State Acts. Several State Governments have revised the pecuniary limits of the District Courts from time to time. In view of this position, no proposal to increase the pecuniary limits of District Courts is under consideration of the Government.

Statement-I

Number of cases under Original Civil Jurisdiction pending before the High Courts in the country

	Name of High Courts	Number of Original Civil cases pending	
1	Andhra Pradesh	42126	
2	Bombay	56713	
3	Delhi	60305	
4	Gujarat	4911	
5	Jammu & Kashmir	28427	As on 30-6-1987
6	Punjab & Haryana	16157	
7	Orissa	20293	
8	Sikkim	31	
9	Assam	9582	
10	Calcutta	15694	
11	Himachal Pradesh	2617	

Name of High Courts		No. of Original Civil cases pending	
12	Madras	103632	As on 31-12-1986
13	Madhya Pradesh	17114	
14	Karnataka	47544	
15	Allahabad	111316	
16	Kerala	25405	As on 30-6-1986
17	Patna	13951	
18	Rajasthan	23766	As on 31-12-1985

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency

The following steps have been taken in recent years to reduce pendency in the High Courts:—

1. Elimination of arrears in all the Courts has been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference have been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeals from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (vide Section 100-A).

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure based on the recommendations of the Law Commission was enacted in 1973.

4. The Sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March 1977 to 440 as on 1st February, 1987.

5. Apart from the above, certain High Courts are taking the following steps for ensuring better disposal of cases:—

(a) Cases involving common questions are being grouped by several High Courts;

(b) Matters fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

(c) Dispensing with printing of records;

(d) Expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.

6. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission have been examined. As action on majority of the recommendations is to be taken by the State Governments and the High Coutrs, these have been sent to them alongwith the views of the Union Government and they have been requested to take necessary action.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are:—

(a) the need or decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by:

(i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

(ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres;

(iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hirarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIV-A of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working.

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating unnecessary litigation delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the forums envisaged in items (a) (i) and (a) (ii).

(d) the method of appointments to subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary.

(e) the training of Judicial Officers.

(f) the role of the legal procession in strengthening the system of administration of justice.

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings.

(h) the cost of litiigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants.

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Cray Corporation to abondon the production of computers which India proposes to buy

676. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report that the US Manufacturer, Cray Corporation proposes to abandon soon the production of MP Series computers which India proposes to buy; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has considered the purchase of a computer in the XMP series and not the MP series. The Cray Corporation has clarified that the cancellation of the MP project in now way affects the continuation of the XMP series.

Repatriation of Chakma refugees

677. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement with Bangladesh was made some time back for the early repatriation of nearly 50,000 tribles mostly Chakmas, who had taken shelter in India;

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement made;

(c) whether all the Chakma refugees have since been sent to Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was decided at a meeting of district officials on December 29, 1986, that